

CITY OF RALEIGH
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (SMAC)

Minutes

Raleigh Municipal Building · 222 W. Hargett Street · Conference Room 305 3:00 p.m. · Thursday, March 2, 2017

Commission Members Present: Matthew Starr (*vice chair*), Marion Deerhake, Ken Carper, Marc Horstman (*chair*), Vanessa Fleischmann, Francine Durso, Kevin Yates, David Webb, Chris Bostic, and Evan Kane.

Stormwater Staff Present: Blair Hinkle, Suzette Mitchell, Kelly Daniel, Carmela Teichman, Kristin Freeman, Dale Hyatt, Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Scott Bryant, Chris Stanley, Sonya Debnam, Lauren Witherspoon, Ben Brown, Ashley Rodgers, James Pflaum, Kevin Boyer, and Veronica Barrett.

Guests: Sara Meadows, Charles Archer, Jon Becker, Amy Wazengger, and Marsha Presnell-Jeanette.

Meeting Called to Order: 3:05 p.m. by Marc Horstman

Motions: (Absentees and Minutes)

- February Meeting Minutes: **Mr. Horstman** made a motion to approve and **Mr. Bostic** seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The following items were discussed with action taken as shown:

1. **Stormwater Staff Report:**

- Item of Interest:
 - *Stormwater Program Budget work session presentation will be provided to City Council on March 15 between 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*
- **Mr. Horstman** announced that he is resigning from his position on the Commission effective the end of this meeting. His resignation is due to the fact that he will be moving out of Raleigh city limits in March and therefore cannot serve on the Commission. He thanked the Commission and staff for all the assistance that was provided to him during the past four years.

2. **Drainage Assistance Project Review:**

- **Ms. Deerhake** noted to the Chairperson that she lives in this neighborhood as a matter of disclosure. **Mr. Horstman** believed that she would still be able to vote unless there was a specific conflict of interest that the Commission should be aware of. **Blair Hinkle** agreed.

Chris Stanley informed the Commission that he is presenting one project today located on Weldon Place. This project involves several properties experiencing structural flooding from a poorly defined drainage system. The total project costs is \$250,000.

Project Costs

Estimated project costs at each of the above locations are included below:

Weldon Place Drainage Improvements	Estimated Project Costs \$250,000
FY17 Project Funds Approved to Date	\$875,000
Total Estimated Project Costs This Period	\$250,000
FY17 Budget	\$1,250,000
FY17 Remaining DA Funds	\$125,000

Ms. Durso stated there is property being developed to the east of this petition and she wanted to make sure it is not compounding any of the issues being addressed with this petition. **Chris Stanley** said it should not impact the project at all. He said most of the drainage will be routed to the north and into a system that discharges to the north and across to Grant Ave. He stated some of it already goes southward to Wade Ave. and it does not look like any of the drainage will make it into the watershed.

Mr. Starr asked what measures will be taken to make sure the little tributaries are not blown out due to the concentrated flow. **Chris Stanley** stated that we will have to put in some type of riprap basin or a system that will dissipate all of that energy that comes through there.

Ms. Deerhake stated that the Hobson Ct. construction is fairly new and wanted to know if the project is in the 100-year floodplain. **Chris Stanley** said he does not believe that the floodplain extends to that area and said that he will have to check the floodplain map. **Blair Hinkle** mentioned that he is looking at a map and the floodplain does get out into the middle of the cul-de-sac. **Ms. Deerhake** said she has concerns about construction in Raleigh floodplains.

Ms. Durso commented that years ago the Commission had a discussion on building in a floodplain, but they were never able to move things forward on that. She recalls on Hobson Ct., when the last house was built, it would have needed a stormwater detention device. There was a lengthy discussion and it was decided to not require that one lot to have stormwater detention because the others did not require one. So the issue of stormwater was looked at before in that area, but it was all about timing when different requirements were in place.

Mr. Horstman suggested at the next Commission meeting to have staff give a presentation on the evolution of the policy regarding development in the floodplain.

Mr. Kane asked how long problems had been plaguing these properties. **Chris Stanley** replied that it has been over the past few years since redevelopment has been going on.

Mr. Bostic wanted to know the frequency of experiencing a flood event. **Chris Stanley** said at least several times a year.

Ms. Deerhake said that during storm events, she has observed a considerable amount of sheet flow coming over Baez Street into Wade Ave. and she hopes this will help. She referenced the lot that was under development and that it would not impact a particular area (*located in the presentation*) and she would offer a cautionary note for the resident that is north facing Mullens Circle. She has been watching the construction on the lot because of the elevation and she is concerned about the backyards of those residents.

Mr. Horstman asked due to existing infrastructure in the area is this part of a watershed study. **Blair Hinkle** said if you mean from a broader context, the efforts have not risen to the level of planning specific watershed master plans. He indicated that staff plans to go through it systematically at a higher level for each watershed in the City and then get down to problem areas.

Ms. Durso said it was mentioned that the junction box was not going to be at Baez Street but in another area. She asked what happens when that open channel starts having problems in the future since Baez Street is not participating in the project now. **Chris Stanley** stated they chose not to participate. They were adamant they were not going to dedicate an easement to that and they would fix it themselves.

Mr. Kane said what is the impact on the project in terms of sizing the work for redevelopment of those properties upstream that increases impervious surfaces and volumes of stormwater. **Ben Brown** replied that per the current ordinance they have to mitigate for downstream runoff to the 2- to 10-year storm to predevelopment conditions.

Ms. Deerhake commented that she will not make a motion but whoever does, she wants them to consider asking staff to come back and provide more details on the protection of the stream and the design process for accommodating that.

Motion:

Mr. Horstman made a motion to approve the drainage project if staff will come back to provide more information on stream bank protection and downstream analysis. **Mr. Starr** seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Blair Hinkle said just to clarify, the project is approved but staff will return with additional information either at the next meeting or prior to the next meeting via email.

Chris Stanley announced that this is his last SMAC meeting. He accepted another position with a local firm as a consultant. He expressed appreciation to the Commission and staff and that it has been a pleasure working with the City and this program.

Blair Hinkle thanked Chris Stanley for his service to the City and to the Stormwater program. There has been a lot of progress in the drainage program over the past couple of years and that is due to the efforts of Chris, his staff, and the development of the drainage assistance policy.

3. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair:**

Mr. Horstman noted as part of the rules of procedures, each year the Commission shall elect a chair and vice chair annually in March.

Ms. Fleischmann nominated Matthew Starr for Chair. **Mr. Yates** nominated Vanessa Fleischmann for vice chair.

Motion:

Mr. Horstman made a motion to elect Matthew Starr for Chair and Vanessa Fleischmann for Vice Chair, and **Mr. Webb** seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Closed Session:**

Mr. Horstman made a special motion, in order to enter closed session, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(2) for the purpose of choosing recipients of the 2017 Environmental Awards – Streams and Stormwater Video Competition. The list of potential award winners was selected by City staff prior to this March 2 meeting. The award recipients will be recognized in a public

ceremony scheduled for April 25, 2017 at Fletcher Theater in Raleigh. **Ms. Durso** seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 10-0. The Commission entered closed session at 4:01 p.m.

The Commission came out of closed session at 5:01 p.m.

5. **Mr. Horstman** made a statement that the Commission has considered the candidates and made selections for the annual Environmental Awards – Streams and Stormwater Video Competition. The recipients will be announced in a public ceremony scheduled for April 25, 2017 at Fletcher Theater in Raleigh.
6. **Other Business:**
Blair Hinkle thanked Mr. Horstman for all of his time and service to the Commission on behalf of the organization.

Adjournment:

Mr. Horstman made a motion to adjourn and **Mr. Kane** seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Suzette Mitchell